



Photo by Sarah Taylor

Doug Comeau, artist and owner of Timberwolf Gallery, holds the coin he made the art for. The coin was released on Tuesday in the Canadian Royal Mint series.

Trenton artist's work featured on latest coin

By Sarah Taylor

A local artist has reached a milestone with his work being featured on one of the latest Royal Canadian Mint coins.

Trenton-based artist Doug Comeau was approached to create the art for one of the coins in the Royal Canadian Mint Bison series for 2014.

After being released on Tuesday, all 7,500 of the coins sold out.

"You don't realize the gravity of it until it happens... It's a milestone of course," said Comeau.

Comeau, 53, originally thought he was being scammed when he received a call in 2012, asking if he would be a contributing artist to the 2014 coin series. He used graphite pencil to draw the image he was asked to produce for the coin. The coin, along with the rest in its series, weighs one ounce and is 38 millimetres in size.

"They were looking for realists in graphite or colour pencil or a fine medium that has really fine detail for the coin, in order to stamp and do what they want to do," said Comeau.

As thrilled as Comeau was to be work-

ing on this project, his contribution had to remain confidential until the release of the coins.

"My mouth was shut until then, had to be....It was really hard. It's one of those things you want to share," said Comeau.

The Royal Canadian Mint gave Comeau basic instructions on what they wanted the coin to be with an idea of what he could do with it, based on his previous work. They wanted a bison for the 20 dollar coin.

"They gave me the animal, the concept in which they wanted it portrayed...

They didn't know at what level, and how well, but they knew they were going to get something that they asked for," said Comeau.

Comeau's passion for being an artist began as a teenager. He later joined the military in 1979 and 10 years later, opened his gallery, Timberwolf Gallery in Trenton. In 2001, he left the military and committed to his gallery full-time.

"Having a following already made it somewhat easier...I opened up this gallery as an experiment and I'm still here," said Comeau.

Graduating students explore job market at fair

By Justin Greaves

Over 50 employers were looking to hire at the 17th annual career fair at Loyalist College on Thursday.

The fair too place in the Kente building gymnasium from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., offered both students and grads the chance to connect with future employers and begin networking with them. The fair was organized by the career centre at Loyalist College.

"The fair connects students directly with employers in their field. Graduating students can potentially find full-time jobs. Students can connect with employers and maybe find placement or internship opportunities," said Francine Short, the career centre's office co-ordinator at Loyalist.

"Employers are looking for summer students directly related to programs. It's a great opportunity for students to start networking with these employers and perhaps get some experience in their fields," added Short.

Tara Donaldson, a third-year architecture student, has a job lined up for the summer, but will still attend the fair to keep networking and looking for future jobs.

"I visited the fair last year. The career fair is very helpful, especially since I'm in third year. This year, I will be looking for jobs for after the summer," said Donaldson.

Donaldson will be working at an architecture firm in Frankford, Ont. as a junior designer after this semester. She feels the program has prepared her for the summer job at the Frankford firm.

The career fair gives a chance for employers to come to the students, taking some of the stress of finding jobs off of students.

"It gets a little nerve-racking doing homework, figuring out placements and on top of everything, I'm going for interviews everywhere," said Katrine Dussault, a third-year architecture student.

Dussault has an interview with a firm in Edmonton, Alta., but is applying everywhere she can.

"I will be at the fair handing out resumes to people I want to get a job from.

I think career fairs are great if you're looking for a job in a certain area," said Dussault.

The career fair helps students such as Dussault see employers face-to-face and not just via email.

"The Internet is the best way if you are looking for jobs abroad. But career fairs are better for specific jobs and people who know where they want to go with their career. Apply for jobs that are not just ones you want, but for all jobs related to your program. You can always say no to a job you don't want. Once your foot's in a door, there's always more doors," said Dussault.

Many of the employers return to the fair year after year, continually building relationships with students and grads. "Don't ever be afraid of rejection. Eventually, you'll find something that will fit."

To hear a student's perspective on the fair and her future, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34262>

Dental hygienists give back

By Emily Cumming

Dental hygienists across the country will be giving back to their community with a "gift from the heart" this Saturday by giving free dental hygiene treatments to those who cannot afford it.

Dental hygienists are part of a primary health care system that can prevent infections before they become full-blown emergencies.

Some dental surgery is covered by OHIP, but preventative treatments by dental hygienists must be paid out of pocket by many Ontarians. Some people rely on a dental plan through their work or school - though many still can't afford these services.

Bev Woods started Gift From The Heart, an annual event, to address this issue. It's in its sixth year and Woods will be rolling up her sleeves Saturday, Feb. 8 to offer the no-cost dental hygiene event in Belleville. The event will take place at Maxwell College, where eight other dental hygienists will work alongside Woods.

During the first two years, Woods worked the event by herself, but since then dental hygienists from across Canada have joined forces with her.

"At the end of the day paying your hydro, putting food on the table or having your teeth cleaned - what are you going to pick? It's not going to be paying to have your teeth cleaned and that's why this day is so important," Woods said. One in six people regularly go without dental hygiene care in Ontario, according to Woods.

This type of event first became possible when in 2007, when Bill 171 was passed in Ontario. This bill gave dental hygienists the ability to open an independent practice without a dentist.

This initiative, Woods said, gave people better access to primary care. Even though the event began in Ontario, it has spread across the country. This year, 100 dental hygiene practices across Canada will be taking part.

"Many go without basic dental care because of accessibility and financial reasons," said Woods of her patients, who predominantly fit within two age brackets: 25 to 29 and 65 to 75.

Woods explained that both age brackets face economic barriers to accessing care. Those in their late 20s have often recently graduated from college or university and are no longer covered by their parents' dental plans. They are also just at the start of their careers, often in jobs with low wages and few or no benefits.

Those in their 60s and 70s are usually transitioning out of the workforce and living with a fixed income. Some are not receiving a pension and instead relying on the Canadian Pension Plan.

Currently, there are 20 dental appointments still available for the event Saturday.

Students get advice on how to make ends meet

By Samantha Hobbs

Are you stressed about money, have no idea how to budget, manage your debit and credit, what or how to go about investing or worried about someone stealing your identity? Loyalist College has something that may help.

Loyalist is offering free budgeting and financial literacy seminars. The budgeting and financial literacy seminars started in mid-January and have been running every Monday and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bob Robertson is the facilitator for the seminars here at Loyalist. "The seminars are about learning how to budget, managing your expenses, understanding credit and debit management, protecting yourself from fraud and investing," said Robertson.

Fraud and identity theft are happening more now because of things like online banking, he said.

"The protecting yourself from fraud portion is a small piece that gives simple tips on preventing identity theft and fraud." Student will also be provided with snacks and a handout with a copy of the presentation and forms to help them with their own budgeting.

"I think these seminars are important because they teach students the basics of budgeting and financial literacy. These are skills that everyone can use throughout their entire lives," said Robertson.

If you are not comfortable coming to one of the seminars or the time doesn't work, you can schedule an appointment with Robertson to receive one-on-one help. He can be reached via email at bobrobertson@loyalistic.on.ca

It's not too late to attend one of the seminars. They run until Feb. 11.

Strike...

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In reply, Ryan Gibbs, the general manager of the Ramada Inn, posted that "We are doing everything within our power to bring a swift end to the strike."

The strikers, however, say that it is not that simple - they say they have little to no contact with the management or non-unionized members of the hotel.

"We aren't in contact with them," Niquest said about the non-unionized workers. "We are here, deal with the customers, give them the information, and do what we have to do to get the company to talk to us."

In previous media coverage, the chairman of Royal Host stated the company has every intent to make an agreement with the strikers.

The workers aren't sure how long the strike is going to last, but they are prepared to wait it out as long as they have to.

"We're fighting until we've resolved it. There's no other choice," Niquest said. "Unless they tell us we have an agreement, then we will go back in. Until then there's nowhere else to go. We just don't want to lose anything."



Photo by Emily Cumming

Ramada employees walk the picket line in front of the Ramada Inn Hotel in Trenton on Feb. 4. Many workers, have been on strike since October 1, 2013. The picketers are fighting to keep benefits, vacation pay and seniority.